

REMARKS

Claims 9-13, and 24 have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of continuation applications. Claim 23 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 23 can be found, for instance, in canceled claim 24. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 23, 25-27 are pending.

Claims 9-13 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,228,398 ("the '398 patent") in combination with U.S. Patent 4,559,332 ("the '332 patent") and further in combination with U.S. Patent 5,160,744 ("the '744 patent") and as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,596,456 ("the '456 patent") in combination with the '332 patent and further in combination with the '744 patent.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the claim rejections for at least the reasons discussed in the response to the preceding Office Action, Applicants have nevertheless further amended the claims in order to expedite allowance of the application.

Applicants submit that the cited reference do not disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in pending claims 23 and 25-27.

In addition, the references, even if combined in the manner suggested by the Office, would not provide the claimed invention. For instance, the references would not provide a

composition in which the aldosterone antagonist drug is selected from eplerenone and spironolactone, and the second antihypertensive agent is selected from a diuretic, a sympatholytic agent, an ACE inhibitor, a vasopeptidase, a calcium channel blocker, a direct vasodilator, a renin inhibitor, and an angiotensin II antagonist.

Claims 23-27 are therefore believed to be allowable.

Should the Examiner believe a discussion of this matter would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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